



Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished



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12 FBI agents fired for kneeling during racial justice protest sue to get their jobs back

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve former FBI agents fired after kneeling during a 2020 racial justice protest in Washington sued Monday to get their jobs back, saying their action had been intended to de-escalate a volatile situation and was not meant as a political gesture.

The agents say in their lawsuit that they were fired in September by Director Kash Patel because they were perceived as not being politically affiliated with President Donald Trump. But they say their decision to take a knee on June 4, 2020, days after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, has been misinterpreted as political expression.

The lawsuit says the agents were assigned to patrol the nation's capital during a period of civil unrest prompted by Floyd's death. Lacking protective gear or extensive training in crowd control, the agents became outnumbered by hostile crowds they encountered and decided to kneel to the ground in hopes of defusing the tension, the lawsuit said. The tactic worked, the lawsuit asserts the crowds dispersed, no shots were



Federal Bureau of Investigation officers take a knee with demonstrators as they march on Pennsylvania Ave during a protest over the death of George Floyd on June 4, 2020, in Washington.
Associated Press

fired and the agents "saved American lives" that day. "Plaintiffs were performing their duties as FBI Special Agents, employing reasonable de-escalation to prevent a potentially deadly confrontation with American citizens: a Washington Massacre that could have rivaled the Boston Massacre in 1770," the lawsuit says. The FBI declined to comment Monday.

The lawsuit in federal court in Washington represents

the latest court challenge to a personnel purge that has roiled the FBI, targeting both top-ranking supervisors and line agents, as Patel has worked to reshape the nation's premier law enforcement agency. Besides the kneeling agents, other employees pushed out in recent months have worked on investigations involving Trump or his allies and in one case displayed an LGBTQ+ flag in his workspace.

After photographs emerged

of the agents taking a knee, the FBI conducted an internal review, with the then-deputy director determining that the agents had no political motive and should not be punished. The Justice Department inspector general reached a similar conclusion and faulted the department for having put the agents in a precarious situation that day, the lawsuit says.

It was only after Patel took over the bureau in February

that the FBI took a different posture.

Multiple kneeling agents were removed from supervisory positions last spring and a fresh disciplinary inquiry was launched that resulted in the agents being interviewed about their actions. That internal process was still pending when the agents in September received terse letters telling them they were being terminated because of "unprofessional conduct and a lack of impartiality in carrying out duties, leading to the political weaponization of government."

"Defendants dismissed Plaintiffs in a partisan effort to retaliate against FBI employees that they perceived to be sympathetic to President Trump's political opponents," the lawsuit states. "And Defendants acted summarily to avoid creating any further administrative record that would reveal their actions as vindictive and unjustified."

The plaintiffs are among 22 agents from different squads across Washington who were deployed to downtown D.C. on June 4, 2020 to demonstrate a visible law enforcement process during a time of protests in the nation's capital and across the country. □

ICEBlock app maker sues Trump administration for free speech violations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The maker of an iPhone app that flagged sightings of U.S. immigration agents sued the Trump administration for free speech violations on Monday, alleging that U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi used her "state power" to force Apple to remove the app.

Apple in October removed ICEBlock and other apps from its app store after Bondi said they put Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers at risk by enabling people to track ICE activity in their neighborhoods.

The lawsuit from ICEBlock app maker Joshua Aaron argued that the govern-

ment's actions violated the First Amendment.

The lawsuit also asks a federal judge to protect the

Texas-based software developer from prosecution, alleging "unlawful threats made by Attorney General

Bondi, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, ICE Acting Director Todd M. Lyons, and White House Border Czar Tom Homan to criminally investigate and prosecute Aaron for his role in developing ICEBlock."

The Department of Justice didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

ICEBlock was the most widely used of the ICE-tracking apps in Apple's app store until Bondi said in October that her office reached out to Apple "demanding that they remove ICEBlock" and claiming that it "is designed to put ICE agents at risk just for do-

ing their jobs."

Apple soon complied, sending an email to Aaron that said it would block further downloads of the app because new information "provided to Apple by law enforcement" showed the app broke the app store rules.

According to the email, which Aaron shared with The Associated Press in October, Apple said the app violated the company's policies "because its purpose is to provide location information about law enforcement officers that can be used to harm such officers individually or as a group." □



A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent is seen in Park Ridge, Ill., Sept. 19, 2025.

Associated Press

Trump's former lawyer Alina Habba resigns as top federal prosecutor in New Jersey

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ and
ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, Alina Habba, resigned Monday as the top federal prosecutor for New Jersey, leaving the job after an appeals court said she had been serving in the post unlawfully.

In a statement posted on social media, Habba assailed the court's ruling as political, but said she was resigning "to protect the stability and integrity" of her office.

"But do not mistake compliance for surrender," she said, adding that the administration would continue its appeal of the court rulings ousting her from the position. "This decision will not weaken the Justice Department and it will not weaken me."

Habba said she would remain with the Justice Department as a senior adviser to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi. Her former duties will, for now, be split between three lawyers in the office.



Alina Habba, President Donald Trump's pick to be the interim U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, speaks with reporters outside the White House, March 26, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Habba, 41, was appointed in March to serve a temporary term as acting U.S. attorney for New Jersey, a powerful post charged with enforcing federal criminal and civil law.

Once a partner in a small New Jersey law firm, Habba was among Trump's most visible legal defend-

ers during the four years he was out of power, representing him in court and frequently appearing on cable TV news as his "legal spokesperson."

But she had limited federal court experience and no experience as a prosecutor, and New Jersey's two Democratic senators indi-

cated they would block her confirmation in the U.S. Senate.

When her term expired in July, a panel of federal judges appointed one of her subordinates to the role instead. But Bondi promptly fired the replacement, blaming Habba's removal on "politically minded

judges."

A lower-court judge's finding that Habba was unlawfully serving in the position soon triggered a monthslong legal standoff, prompting confusion and delays within New Jersey's federal court system.

Then, earlier this month, a federal appeals court in Philadelphia disqualified her from serving in the role, writing in their opinion that "the citizens of New Jersey and the loyal employees in the U.S. Attorney's Office deserve some clarity and stability."

Trump's critics say he has been exploiting legally questionable loopholes to put unqualified loyalists in jobs that require U.S. Senate confirmation. Bondi said the department will continue to fight to reverse the courts' ruling on Habba, and she will return as U.S. attorney if those appeals are successful. But the attorney general said the ruling "has made it untenable" for Habba to remain "with politicized judges pausing trials designed to bring violent criminals to justice." □

Washington's Mayor Bowser says the city's police chief, Pamela Smith, is stepping down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pamela Smith, who was catapulted into national attention after President Donald Trump moved to federalize Washington's police force and who worked to confront rising violence in the nation's capital, is stepping down as the city's police chief, Mayor Muriel Bowser said Monday.

Smith, appointed in 2023, had been brought in to stabilize a department facing staffing shortages and a city shaken by post-pandemic crime. But her tenure unfolded amid a fierce battle over authority, as Trump asserted federal control over the Metropolitan Police Department and deployed National Guard troops and federal agents alongside the city's officers. In announcing her resigna-

tion, Bowser praised Smith for "stepping up" at a moment of "significant urgency," crediting her with helping drive down violent crime, cutting homicides to an eight-year low and launching major policing initiatives, including a Real-Time Crime Center and new technology upgrades. "Chief Smith got all of this done while navigating unprecedented challenges and attacks on our city's autonomy," Bowser said. The mayor did not say why Smith is leaving. She also did not announce who would take over the department or whether the change in leadership might affect the city's broader public-safety strategy at a moment when Washington continues to recover from historic levels of violence.

The announcement comes after Bowser said she would not seek a fourth term. Smith and Bowser have been under tremendous pressure from constituents over the police force's per-

formance during the federal law enforcement intervention.

In a statement, Smith said she was confident the police force "is in a strong position and that the great

work will continue" and that the role has been both a challenge and a reward. "I am proud of the accomplishments we achieved together, and I thank the residents of this city for their trust and partnership," Smith said. "While my aspiration has always been to see zero percent crime, we are not there yet. Nonetheless, we have made tremendous progress, and there remains important work ahead."

Smith, a longtime federal law enforcement official and former head of the U.S. Park Police, assumed command during one of Washington's most volatile years in nearly two decades, as homicides surged, carjackings hit record highs and frustration mounted among residents and lawmakers. □



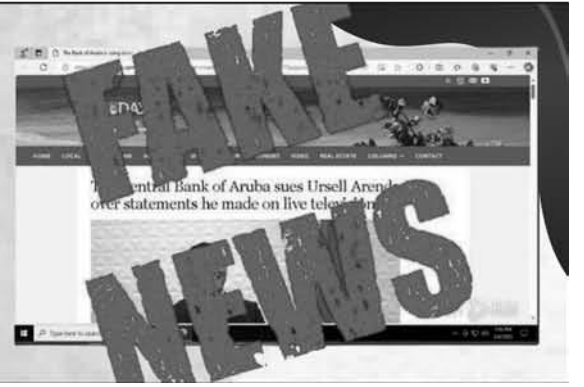
Washington Metropolitan Police Chief Pamela Smith stands during a news conference at the Department of Justice, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

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Archbishop Gregory Aymond, of New Orleans, listens during a news conference at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore, Nov. 12, 2013.

Associated Press

Court settlement approved for New Orleans Archdiocese to pay hundreds of clergy abuse victims

By JACK BROOK

Associated Press/Report for America

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans Archdiocese will pay at least \$230 million to hundreds of victims of clergy sexual abuse under a settlement approved Monday by a federal judge that follows years of negotiations.

Richard Trahan, an attorney representing victims in the case, and a spokesperson for the archdiocese both confirmed approval of the settlement to The Associated Press by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Meredith Grabill.

Earlier this month, some of the survivors behind the more than 500 abuse claims testified in court, saying they are still affected decades later by the painful memories they shared publicly. The archdiocese had filed for bankruptcy in May 2020 rather than handle each abuse claim separately. Survivors noted that doing so enabled church leadership to avoid tougher questions they would have to face in court.

Some recalled battling substance abuse, struggling with intimacy and wondering whether they themselves were to blame for what happened. Some said they forgave the church, while others could not.

In her testimony, Kathleen Austin recalled being abused hundreds of times as a child and watching the perpetrator continue in a role within the Catholic Church even after its leadership knew what he was doing. She expressed skepticism that the church would hold clergy accountable in the future given how much she said it resisted responding to her experiences.

"Why has it taken so long to get to this point and at such a high cost?" she asked.

The Associated Press doesn't generally identify people who are victims of sexual abuse unless they come forward publicly, such as those who testified in New Orleans.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond, the head of the archdiocese who is handing church leadership to a successor, listened to the survivors' testimony last week.

"I also apologize for the church, that I'm embarrassed by what has happened in the church," Aymond told reporters afterward. He added he hopes survivors have found some "closure" but said he understood that there is "still a lot of suffering" they are experiencing. □

Zohran Mamdani tells immigrant New Yorkers about their right not to comply with ICE



New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani speaks during a news conference, in the Queens borough of New York, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani posted a video to social media on Sunday explaining immigrants' right to refuse to speak to or comply with agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, days after federal agents carried out a raid in Manhattan.

In the video, Mamdani vowed to protect the city's 3 million immigrants, saying, "We can all stand up to ICE if you know your rights."

He explained that people in the U.S. can choose not to speak to federal immigration agents, film them without interfering and refuse their requests to enter private spaces. ICE agents cannot enter spaces like a home, school or private area of a workplace without a judicial warrant signed by a judge, Mamdani said.

"ICE is legally allowed to lie to you, but you have the right to remain silent. If you're being detained, you may always ask, 'Am I free to go?' repeatedly until they answer you," said Mamdani, who will be sworn in as mayor on Jan. 1.

His comments came a week after demonstrators gathered as ICE attempted to detain people on Canal Street near New York's Chinatown. A similar immigration sweep in the same neighborhood last October was also met with protests.

"New York will always welcome immigrants, and I will fight each and every day to protect, support, and celebrate our immigrant brothers and sisters," Mamdani said in Sunday's video.

Weeks earlier, Mamdani had a surprisingly cordial Oval Office meeting with President Donald Trump, whose administration is carrying out federal immigration enforcement operations in several U.S. cities, most recently in New Orleans. □

The European Union moves ahead with toughening its migration system

By **SAM McNEIL**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union officials on Monday were finalizing a major overhaul of its migration system, including streamlined deportations and increased detentions, after years of fierce debate on the issue has seen the rise of far-right political parties. Since a surge in asylum-seekers and other migrants to Europe a decade ago, public views on the issue have shifted. EU migration policies have hardened, and the number of asylum-seekers is down from record levels. Still, U.S. President Donald Trump in recent days issued sharp criticism of the 27-nation bloc's migration policies as part of a national security strategy painting European allies as weak. Ministers meeting in Brussels agreed to a "safe third country" concept and a list of safe countries of origin, Danish minister Rasmus Stoklund said. That means EU nations can deny residency and deport migrants because they either



Migrants push a small boat in an attempt to reach Britain, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025 in Gravelines, northern France.

hail from a safe country or could apply for asylum in one outside the EU. "We will be able to reject people that have no reason for asylum in Europe, and then it will be possible for us to make mechanisms and procedures that enable us to return them faster," Stoklund said. "It should

not be human smugglers that control the access to Europe." Ministers also agreed to the formation of a "solidarity pool" to share costs of hosting refugees among member nations. The pool is meant to collect 430 million euros (\$489 million) to disburse to countries facing

greater migratory pressure including Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain in southern Europe. Hungary and Poland have long opposed any obligation for countries to host migrants or pay for their upkeep. "It is important to give the people also the feeling back that we have control

over what is happening," said Magnus Brunner, the EU's commissioner for migration. The European Council will now negotiate with the 720 lawmakers at the European Parliament to accept or modify the migration policy changes. Right and far-right parties are largely unified in supporting the changes. Amnesty International EU advocate on migration Olivia Sundberg Diez likened the EU's migration changes to the Trump administration's crackdown. She called on European lawmakers to block the new measures that "will inflict deep harm on migrants and the communities that welcome them." French Green lawmaker Mélissa Camara called the changes "a renunciation of our fundamental values and human rights." In May, EU nations endorsed sweeping reforms to the bloc's asylum system, with the European Commission issuing the new Pact on Migration and Asylum. □

Associated Press

Louvre workers announce strike over work conditions and security after \$102M heist

By **JOHN LEICESTER**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Workers at the Louvre Museum voted Monday for strikes to protest their work conditions, a ticket-price hike for non-European visitors and security weaknesses that a brazen daylight theft of France's Crown Jewels highlighted in October. In a letter announcing the strike action starting next Monday, which was addressed to France's culture minister and seen by The Associated Press, the CGT, CFDT and Sud unions asserted that "visiting the Louvre has become a real obstacle course" for the millions of people who come to admire its huge collections of art and artifacts.

The museum is in "crisis," with insufficient resources and "increasingly deteriorated working conditions," said the unions' strike notice to Culture Minister Rachida Dati. "The theft of 19 October 2025 highlighted shortcomings in priorities that had long been reported," the unions alleged. The robbery gang made off with loot worth an estimated 88 million euros (\$102 million). The museum director subsequently acknowledged a "terrible failure" in security. The thieves took less than eight minutes to force their way into the museum and leave, using a freight lift to reach one of the building's windows, angle grinders to cut into

jewelry display cases, and motorbikes to make their escape. The haul hasn't been recovered. It includes a diamond-and-emerald necklace Napoleon gave to Empress Marie-Louise, jewels tied to two 19th century queens, Marie-Amélie and Hortense, and Empress Eugénie's pearl-and-diamond tiara. Upkeep of the museum's vast and historic buildings, which were a former palace for French royals, also hasn't kept pace with its success as one of France's leading attractions. A water leak on Nov. 26 damaged several hundred publications stored in the museum's library of works specializing in Egyptian antiquities. The dam-

aged works included re-vues and documents from the 19th and 20th century, the museum said. The opening of a valve triggered the leak in a network of water pipes that are due to be replaced

next year, the museum said. Last month, the Louvre also announced the temporary closure of some employees' offices and one public gallery because of weakened floor beams. □



People walk by an entrance of the Louvre museum, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025 in Paris.

Associated Press

U.N. Palestinian aid agency says Israeli police 'forcibly entered' its Jerusalem compound

By **MEGAN JANETSKY and JULIA FRANKEL**

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police forcibly entered the compound of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees in east Jerusalem early Monday, escalating a campaign against the organization that has been banned from operating on Israeli territory.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, or UNRWA, said in a statement that "sizable numbers" of Israeli forces, including police on motorcycles, trucks and forklifts, entered the compound in the Palestinian neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

"The unauthorized and forceful entry by Israeli security forces is an unacceptable violation of UNRWA's privileges and immunities as a U.N. agency," the statement said.

Meanwhile, officials said President Donald Trump will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Dec. 29 as U.S. officials meet with Netanyahu to move ahead with a U.S.-brokered plan on the future of Gaza. It was not immediately clear where the lead-



Israeli police and officials hang an Israeli flag on the compound of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees in East Jerusalem, after Israel police forcibly entered the compound, Monday, Dec. 8, 2025.

Associated Press

ers will meet.

Israel's long campaign against UNRWA

The raid was the latest in Israel's campaign against the agency, which provides aid and services to some 2.5 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, as well as 3 million more refugees in Syria,

Jordan and Lebanon.

Photos taken by an Associated Press photographer show police erecting an Israeli flag on the compound, and police cars on the street.

Photos provided by UNRWA staff show a group of Israeli police officers in the compound.

Police said in a statement

they entered for a "debt-collection procedure" initiated by Jerusalem's municipal government, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The agency was established to help the estimated 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were driven out of what is now Israel during the 1948 war surround-

ing the creation of the Israeli state. UNRWA supporters say Israel hopes to erase the Palestinian refugee issue by dismantling the agency. Israel says the refugees should be permanently resettled outside its borders.

For months following the start of the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7, 2023, UNRWA was the main lifeline for Gaza's population during Israel's offensive there.

Throughout the war, Israel has accused the agency of being infiltrated by Hamas, using its facilities and taking aid claims for which it has provided little evidence. The U.N. has denied it. Israel also has claimed that hundreds of Palestinian militants work for UNRWA. UNRWA has denied knowingly aiding armed groups and says it acts quickly to purge any suspected militants.

After months of attacks from Netanyahu and his far-right allies, Israel banned it from operating on its territory in January. The U.S., formerly the largest donor to UNRWA, halted funding to the agency in early 2024. □



Dutch nationals facing death row Siegfried Mets, right, and serving life in prison, Ali Tokman, left, attend the handover ceremony between the representatives of Indonesian and Dutch government before their repatriation to the Netherlands, at Cipinang Prison in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Dec. 8, 2025.

Associated Press

By **EDNA TARIGAN**

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Two Dutch nationals imprisoned in Indonesia on drug trafficking convictions were repatriated to the Nether-

lands on Monday evening, following an agreement between the two countries. Indonesian authorities handed over the two prisoners, including one who had been sentenced to

Indonesia sends home 2 Dutch nationals convicted of drug trafficking

death, to Dutch authorities at a prison in Jakarta, ahead of the evening flight. The men wore baseball caps and bright green T-shirts at the handover.

They were being treated for health problems, and the Netherlands had requested their repatriation on humanitarian grounds. Indonesia's deputy minister for immigration and correctional coordination, I Nyoman Gede Surya Mataram, said at a news conference in Jakarta that the two men would continue to serve their prison sentences in the Netherlands.

Siegfried Mets, 74, the prisoner on death row, was convicted of involvement in the shipment of 600,000 ecstasy pills from the Neth-

erlands to Indonesia. He has been held in a prison in Jakarta since February 2008.

Another prisoner, Ali Tokman, 65, was taken into custody at Surabaya airport in December 2014 after customs officers found slightly more than 6 kilograms (13.5 pounds) of brown-colored MDMA, a psychoactive drug. He has served 11 years of a life sentence.

Indonesia, under President Prabowo Subianto's administration, has sent several foreign prisoners to their home countries under bilateral agreements. They included a Filipina who faced the death penalty for drugs, five Australians convicted of heroin traf-

ficking, and two British nationals who also faced the death penalty and a life sentence for smuggling drugs to Indonesia.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime says Indonesia is a major drug smuggling hub despite having some of the strictest drug laws in the world, in part because international drug syndicates target its young population.

About 530 people are on death row in Indonesia, mostly for drug-related crimes, including nearly 100 foreigners, the Ministry of Immigration and Corrections' data showed last month. Indonesia's last executions, of a citizen and three foreigners, were carried out in July 2016. □

Create museum memories with the entire family!



Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you to these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry in located in San Nicolas. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is

situated in the Water Tower and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruban Museum Foundation (FMA), which is a foundation that maintains, preserves, and protects the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page: Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury

Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1,700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba uses approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit



showcases archaeological objects and conveys modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum regularly hosts public seminars, special exhibitions and workshop for visitors to enjoy.

The museum is open daily from 9 am till 5 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page National Archaeological Museum Aruba or website: www.manaruba.org

Editor's note: Pictures are property of the respective museums.

Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be con-

fiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Vene-

zuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the northwest coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet under-

water. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nick name Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully over-



grown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature. □



Casago Aruba: Redefining Island Stays with Full-Service Property Management



Casago Aruba was born from a shared passion for elevating the island's tourism experience. Built on a strong foundation of service, hospitality, and a keen eye for quality, the Casago team—backed by over 16 years of experience in the vacation rental and hospitality industry—is on a mission to redefine what luxury and convenience look like for travelers visiting Aruba.

But Casago is more than just a vacation rental platform. It is a **full-service property management company**, offering seamless experiences



for both guests and homeowners alike. While travelers benefit from handpicked accommodations and personalized service, homeowners gain a reliable partner dedicated to the care and performance of their property.

A Stay Tailored to You

Casago Aruba offers more than just stylish villas. Their curated portfolio includes a **wide variety of condos, homes, and villas** in different sizes to suit all types of travelers—from solo adventurers and couples to large families and groups. Every stay is backed by local expertise, with concierge support, 24/7 guest assistance, and an attention to detail that consistently exceeds expectations.

Whether you're here to relax on world-famous beaches, explore Aruba's cultural gems, or discover hidden corners of the island, Casago Aruba ensures your getaway is as smooth as it is memorable.

A Partner for Homeowners

Behind the scenes, Casago offers a robust suite of property management services designed to help homeowners

maximize rental income while minimizing stress. Services include:

- **Promotion** through Casago's professional booking platform and expert local marketing strategies
- **Complete management** of check-ins, guest communication, cleanings, landscaping, pool maintenance, and repairs
- **Transparent maintenance** reporting, real-time reservation tracking, and on-site security monitoring
- **Full handling** of tax filings for both local and state requirements
- **Monthly property inspections** and full utility bill management
- **Strategic planning** to help homeowners increase profitability and keep their properties in top condition

This full-service model ensures that every home is maintained to the highest standard while giving property owners full peace of mind.

Rooted in Community and Sustainability

What truly sets Casago Aruba apart is their commitment



to the local community and to sustainable practices. The team works closely with local businesses and artisans, promotes eco-conscious travel, and supports initiatives that contribute positively to the island's environment and economy.

As one of the fastest-growing vacation rental and property management companies on the island, Casago Aruba continues to expand its footprint—welcoming more travelers, partnering with more homeowners, and raising the standard of hospitality in Aruba. □

Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites.

These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches during breeding season? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic

Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of

the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other



aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). □



Po-Ké Ono Brings Bold Asian Fusion to Aruba's Dining Scene Innovative eatery blends island culture with modern Asian cuisine



In a culinary landscape known for its diversity and creativity, Po-Ké Ono stands out as a vibrant and contemporary addition to Aruba's restaurant scene. With locations at Azure in Palm Beach and the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad, the concept introduces a refreshing take on Asian fusion dining—casual in style, yet refined in execution.

Established in 2020, Po-Ké Ono was envisioned as a space where flavor, culture, and creativity intersect. The menu features an array of signature dishes including poke bowls, steamed bao, and sushi, crafted with precision and a focus on freshness. Drawing on Asian influences, the restaurant delivers bold flavors in an approachable format, appealing to a broad audience of locals and visitors alike.

The ambiance is designed to be welcoming and relaxed, with a philosophy centered

around accessibility and enjoyment. Whether dining indoors or grabbing a quick bowl on the go, guests can expect a consistently high standard in both service and cuisine. With extensive menu options, including selections for vegan diners, Po-Ké Ono caters to a wide range of tastes and dietary preferences.

While the concept leans into fast-casual dining, the quality of ingredients and thoughtful



preparation reflect fine-dining roots. Many of the restaurant's core ingredients are sourced locally, emphasizing sustainability and support for Aruba's agricultural community. The result is a dining experience that honors both the island's spirit and the culinary traditions it draws inspiration from.

Open daily from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Po-Ké Ono continues to gain recognition as one of the island's premier destinations for sushi, poke, and

bao. Its growing popularity is a testament to Aruba's evolving food culture—one that embraces global influence while staying rooted in community and craft.

For those seeking a modern taste of Asia in the heart of the Caribbean, Po-Ké Ono offers a flavorful and memorable experience worth exploring. □



Fun facts about cacti hedges “Trankera”

(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called “trankera” and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

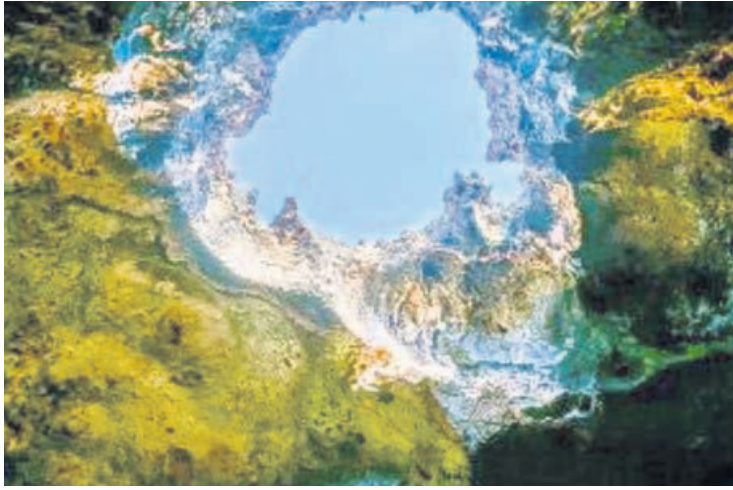
The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several ‘cunucu’ (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don't play that big of a role in Aruba's agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures. □



Explore Aruba!



(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba Today collected some things to do **BEYOND** the beach. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is

19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Arikok National Park

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and

protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In total, the park consists of 34 square kilometers of protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

Natural Bridge

One of Aruba's favorite tourist attractions is the Natural Bridge. For thousands of years, pounding waves and strong winds have slowly chiseled away the limestone cliffs along Aruba's north coast to create several natural bridges. The largest of these bridges used to be the famous Natural Bridge. The bridge was a formation of coral limestone cut out by years



of pounding surf, and was one of the largest of these types of spans in the world. It stood some 23 feet (7 meters) above sea level and spans more than 100 feet (30 meters). Unfortunately the bridge collapsed on September 2, 2005. Despite this, it is still the most photographed natural bridge and it remains a popular tourist attraction in Aruba, with the adjacent and intact Baby Bridge also meriting a visit. The Natural Bridge is the perfect stop while touring Aruba. There is no admission fee or set hours for visiting. Quench your thirst with refreshing beverages & refuel your tank with local snacks.

The Lourdes Grotto

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to San Nicolas. A statue of the Virgin Mary, weighing 700 kilos, was hoisted into place in the grotto. Every year, on February 11 (feast of Lady of Lourdes), a procession leaves from the St. Theresa church in San Nicolas to the grotto, where a mass is performed. The grotto is located road-side and can be visited daily. Just make sure you park safely in the event you wish to stop for pictures at this location. □

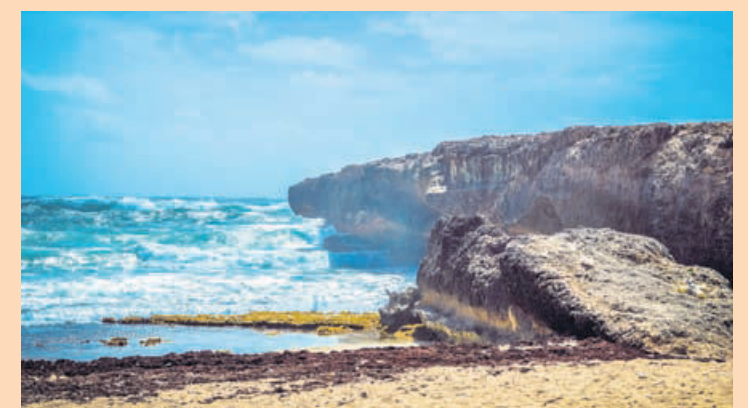
How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches. How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this—one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue

to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean



floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why is the north deep, but the south shallow?

Aruba is a continental island. The island actu-

ally forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger

retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.



CROSSWORD

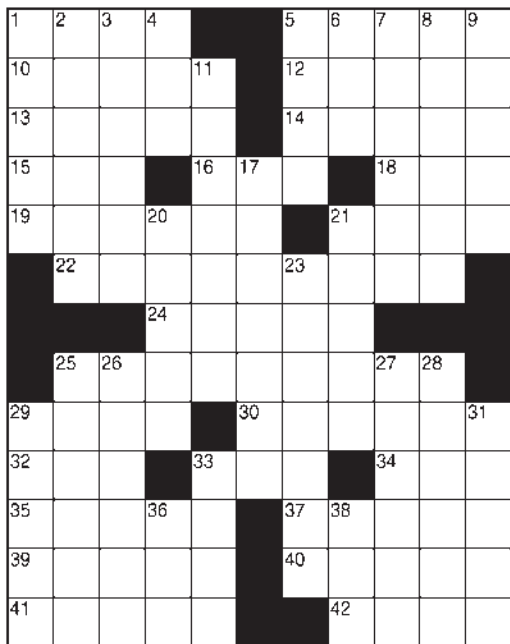
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 39 Forum garments
1 Sacred bird of Egypt
5 Milky gems
10 Hedgehog of games
12 Studio work
13 Game with a drawing
14 Not napping
15 Moody music
16 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
18 Lasso of TV
19 Muscle connector
21 Buds
22 Journal words
24 Suspicious
25 Grassland rodent
29 Without
30 To some extent
32 Botch
33 Corp. or Sgt.
34 Summer sign
35 Fad
37 City on the Mohawk River

DOWN

- 1 Key
2 Sounded like thunder
3 Chant
4 Remain unused
5 Mideast sulfate
6 Punch sound
7 Film set on Pandora
8 Probable
9 Gardener's buy
11 Salon worker
17 Natural
20 Valleys
21 Settle the bill
23 Resolve
25 Scopes trial
26 Incense
27 Like tears
28 Puts up
29 Splinter groups
31 Tribute, of a sort
33 Egg holder
36 Ray-gun sound
38 Pointer



12-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

P Z F L N X L J M I K Z M

L F B I S K Z M K K O L M A . L K ' J

Y T Y S X K O L M A . — F L U O Z Y N

R . P I W

Cryptoquote: IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE YOURSELF, TO FORGIVE. FORGIVE EVERYBODY. — MAYA ANGELOU

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 08 - 11 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	08	MS RENAISSANCE	08.00	18.00	B	1
		VALIANT LADY	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	09	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN STAR	11.00	20.00	I	1
WED	10	MAJESTIC PRINCESS	07.00	18.00	B	1
		BRILLIANT LADY	10.00	22.00	C	1
		OCEANIA INSIGNIA	11.30	22.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	11	MSC DIVINA	08.00	18.00	B	1
		BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	C	1

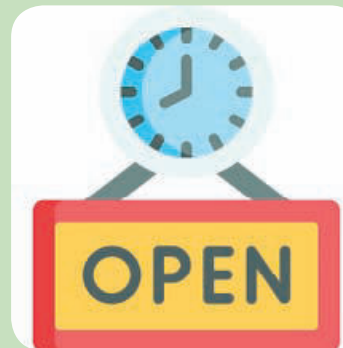
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★

12/9

Answer to previous puzzle

5	7	4	3	2	1	6	8	9
1	6	9	5	7	8	2	4	3
8	2	3	4	6	9	5	7	1
3	8	1	9	4	5	7	6	2
2	4	6	7	8	3	9	1	5
9	5	7	2	1	6	4	3	8
4	3	2	8	9	7	1	5	6
7	1	5	6	3	2	8	9	4
6	9	8	1	5	4	3	2	7

Difficulty: ★

12/8

Massachusetts court hears arguments in lawsuit alleging Meta designed apps to be addictive to kids



Attendees visit the Meta booth at the Game Developers Conference 2023 in San Francisco on March 22, 2023. Associated Press

has nothing to do the company's algorithms or failure to moderate content. □



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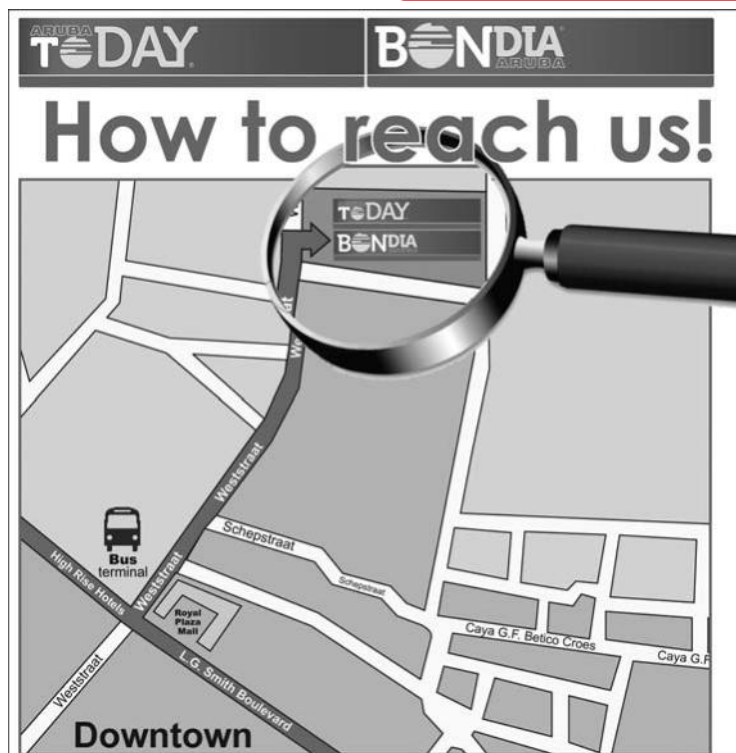
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CLASSIFIEDS

Le Vent
Eagle beach
2 BR 2 1/2 bath
3 rd floor ocean view
Price :\$1,250,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
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Appartments Complex
Under construction
Monserrat Noord
5 min walk to palm beach
2x 2 BR 1 bath and 3x 1 BR 1 bath
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Washington Noord
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3 BR 3 bath with 2 apartment
With pool
Price :\$700,000
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For rent
Marriott Surf club
Palm beach
1 BR sleep 4 ocean Front \$2000
Studio sleep 4 ocean front \$1500
Date : 15 December to 22 December 2025
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club
Palm beach
Gold season
3 BR 3 Bath ocean view
Sleep 12
Price :\$ 25,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance Ocean Suites
Private islands
Christmas week
1 BR WK 51 room # 2136
Ground floor garden view
Price :\$14,000
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Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
1 BR Room # 2258
21 weeks remaining
Price :\$10,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Eagle Beach
1 BR week 52 room # 3308
16 weeks remaining \$10,000
1 BR week 01 room # 3208
9 weeks remaining \$8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For Rent
Divi village golf
Eagle beach
1 BR sleep 4
Date : 13 December to 20 December 2025
Price :\$2000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Time - share owners
Are you interested in sell
Your Time - share in Aruba
Call the expert
40 years doing business
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For rent
Marriott Ocean club
Palm beach 1 BR sleep 4
Ocean view
Date : 15 December to 22 December 2025
Price :\$2500
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Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Central: Tel.585 1965
San Nicolas:
Aloe:Tel.584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Paramount goes hostile in bid for Warner Bros., challenging a \$72 billion offer by Netflix

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Paramount on Monday launched a hostile takeover offer for Warner Bros. Discovery, initiating a potentially bruising battle with rival bidder Netflix to buy the company behind HBO, CNN and DC Studios, and the right to reshape much of the nation's entertainment landscape.

Emerging just days after top Warner managers agreed to Netflix's \$72 billion purchase, Paramount's bid seeks to go over the heads of those leaders by appealing directly to Warner shareholders with more money — \$74.4 billion — and a plan to buy all of Warner's business, including the cable business that Netflix does not want.

Paramount said its decision to go hostile came after it made several earlier bids that Warner management "never engaged meaningfully" with following the company's October announcement that it was open to selling itself.

In its appeal to shareholders, Paramount noted its of-



The Warner Bros. water tower is seen at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, Calif., Friday, Dec. 5, 2025. Associated Press

fer also contains more cash than Netflix's bid — \$18 billion more — and argued that it's more likely to pass antitrust scrutiny from the Trump administration. Netflix on Monday said it had no comment about Paramount's challenge. But on Friday, Netflix downplayed concerns that regulators would oppose a combination of

Netflix and Warner's HBO Max streaming business. The fight for Warner drew strong reaction in Washington, with politicians from both major parties picking sides and citing the likely impact on streaming prices, movie theater employment and the diversity of entertainment choices and political views. Over

the weekend, President Donald Trump weighed in, too, saying a Netflix-Warner combo "could be a problem" because of the size of the combined market share. Paramount, run by David Ellison, whose family is closely allied with Trump, said it had submitted six proposals to Warner over a 12-week period before the

latest offer.

"We believe our offer will create a stronger Hollywood. It is in the best interests of the creative community, consumers and the movie theater industry," Paramount Chairman and CEO David Ellison said in a statement. He added that his deal would lead to more competition in the industry, not less, and more movies in theaters.

Adding to the political intrigue in the dueling bids, a regulatory document released Monday stated that an investment firm run by Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner would be investing in the Paramount deal, too. On Friday, Netflix struck its deal to buy Warner Bros. Discovery, the Hollywood giant behind "Harry Potter" and HBO Max. The cash and stock proposal is valued at \$27.75 per Warner share, giving it a total enterprise value of \$82.7 billion, including debt. The transaction is expected to close in the next 12 to 18 months, after Warner completes its previously announced separation of its cable operations. □



Vehicles and trucks for export wait for transportation from a port in Yantai in eastern China's Shandong province on Jan. 2, 2025. Associated Press

By **CHAN HO-HIM**

AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — China's exports rebounded in November after an unexpected contraction the previous month, pushing its trade surplus past \$1 trillion for the first time, according to data released Monday. Exports climbed 5.9% from a year earlier in November

while imports rose just under 2%.

The customs data released on Monday also showed that shipments to the U.S. dropped nearly 29% year-on-year. But as trade with the U.S. weakens, China is diversifying its export markets throughout Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

China's trade surplus tops \$1 trillion as its exports surge

China's exports had contracted just over 1% in October. November's worldwide exports of \$330.3 billion exceeded economists' estimates. Imports totaled \$218.6 billion for the month. The nearly \$1.08 trillion trade surplus for the first 11 months of this year is a record high, surpassing the \$992 billion surplus for all of 2024, based on official data compiled by FactSet. A year-long trade truce between China and the U.S. was reached at a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in late October in South Korea. The U.S. has lowered its tariffs on China, and China has promised to halt its export controls related to rare earths. "It's likely that November exports have yet

to fully reflect the tariff cut, which should feed through in the coming months," ING Bank chief economist for Greater China Lynn Song wrote in a report. China's factory activity contracted for an eighth straight month in November, according to an official survey, and economists said it was still early to determine whether there was a real rebound in external demand following the U.S.-China trade truce. With exports still going strong, economists generally expect China to meet its target of around 5% annual growth for this year. Chinese leaders outlined a focus on advanced manufacturing for the next five years following a high-level meeting in October. It also highlighted the need to boost domestic consump-

tion, which could help address trade imbalances.

A meeting of the ruling Chinese Communist Party's decision-making Politburo was held on Monday, led by Xi, to discuss economic plans for 2026, according to the Xinhua state news agency. It said Chinese leaders reiterated a focus on "pursuing progress while ensuring stability."

A readout from Xinhua said China needs to better coordinate its domestic economic work in the face of global "trade struggles." Businesses and investors are paying close attention to China's annual Central Economic Work Conference, which is expected to take place later this month and could map out economic priorities for the next year in more details. □

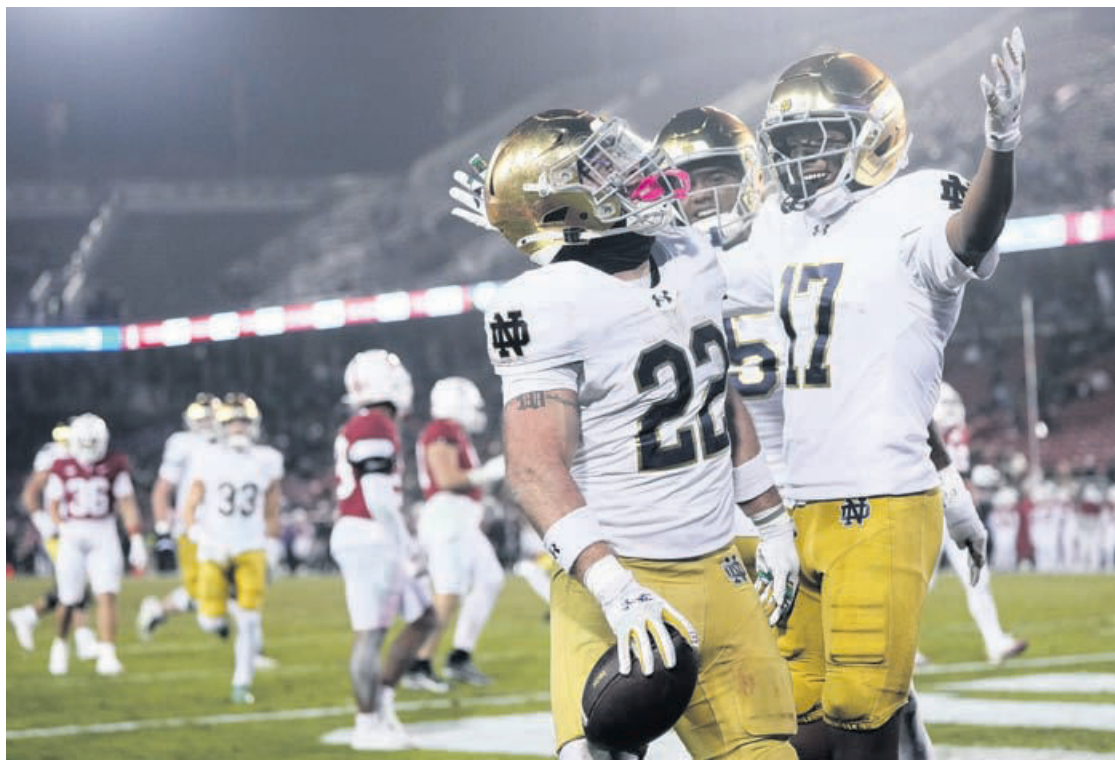
Bowl officials seek 5-7 teams to fill in after Irish, Iowa St, Kansas St say they're done for year

By **ERIC OLSON**

AP College Football Writer
In a matter of hours Sunday, what had appeared to be a year no teams with losing records would be needed to fill out the bowl schedule suddenly changed when Notre Dame, Iowa State and Kansas State announced they would decline bids despite being eligible.

There are 41 bowls this year, and 82 teams won the necessary six games to be eligible. But Iowa State and Kansas State teams going through coaching changes almost simultaneously said they were hanging up their cleats for the season. Notre Dame, the first team left out of the College Football Playoff, followed a few hours later.

Mississippi State and Rice, both 5-7, swooped in to accept bids because they were among the first in line based on their Academic Progress Rate. The Bulldogs will play Wake Forest in the Duke's Mayo Bowl in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Owls will face Texas State in the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas. The Birmingham Bowl, after multiple 5-7 teams declined



Notre Dame running back Aneyas Williams (22) celebrates with wide receiver Elijah Burrese (17) after scoring a touchdown against Stanford during the second half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, in Stanford, Calif.

Associated Press

bids, on Sunday night got Appalachian State to accept an invitation to play Georgia Southern in an all-Sun Belt Conference matchup. Georgia Southern won the regular-season meeting 25-23 on Nov. 6. Iowa State, Kansas State and Notre Dame weren't going to play in any of those lower-level bowls, but their decisions altered

the order of selections and presumably allowed three lesser teams to move up and bowls at the bottom to scramble. Notre Dame's decision to shut down for the year came after it was announced as the first team left out of the playoff. "As a team, we've decided to withdraw our name from consideration for a

bowl game following the 2025 season," the Fighting Irish said in a statement on social media. "We appreciate all the support from our families and fans, and we're hoping to bring the 12th national title to South Bend in 2026." Notre Dame won its last 10 games following a three-point loss to Miami and a one-point loss to Texas

A&M. The Fighting Irish, which lost to Ohio State in the national championship game last season, finished 10-2 and ranked No. 9 on Sunday in The Associated Press poll and No. 11 in the CFP rankings.

Miami got into the playoff as an at-large selection after moving from No. 12 to No. 10 in the final rankings. Notre Dame dropped a spot and will now stay home for the postseason for the first time since 2016. The Big 12 Conference said it will fine Iowa State and Kansas State \$500,000 each for opting out of bowl participation. Both schools are going through coaching transitions with Matt Campbell leaving Iowa State for Penn State and Chris Klieman announcing his retirement. "While the conference acknowledges the difficult timing around coaching changes, the Big 12 is responsible for fulfilling its contractual obligations to its bowl partners," the Big 12 said in a statement. Iowa State announced its players voted to not play in a bowl because the team doesn't have healthy players to safety practice and play. □

Caroline Garcia turned down \$270,000 betting company offer for her tennis podcast

PARIS (AP) — Retired French tennis player Caroline Garcia has rejected a \$270,000 sponsorship deal for her podcast from a betting company, saying she chooses values over money. Garcia, who reached a career-high ranking of No. 4, retired earlier this year. She has stayed connected with the sport through the Tennis Insider Club podcast she created with her husband Borja Duran. "It wasn't an easy "no," especially right after retiring from tennis," the 32-year-old Garcia said on her social networks. "But we want to build a platform where players feel completely safe to be honest, vulnerable and open

about anything, without pressure or distraction." Garcia did not identify the company that offered the deal. Last year at the U.S. Open, Garcia drew attention to the persistent problem of cyberbullying in tennis particularly from people who bet on matches after her first-round loss at the Grand Slam tournament. "Over the past two years of interviewing players, coaches, agents and parents, one theme keeps coming back again and again: betting has become one of the biggest sources of pressure, abuse and hate in modern sport," she said in her latest post. "I do not want Tennis Insider

Club to contribute, even indirectly, to a system that fuels addiction, destroys lives and turns athletes into daily targets." Garcia won 11 WTA titles and captured the WTA Finals crown in 2022, the same year she reached the U.S. Open semifinals. She also won the French Open doubles title in 2016. Her path hasn't always been smooth. Injuries, pressure and a break from the sport in 2022 tested her resolve. That same year she revealed she had struggled with eating disorders, triggered by the physical pain of a foot injury and the emotional toll of the tour. "Our mission is to tell real

stories from inside tennis, inspire people and grow the sport in a way that is healthy for athletes and

fans," Garcia added. "Taking betting money would move us in the opposite direction." □



France's Caroline Garcia reacts as she plays United States' Bernarda Pera during their first round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris, Monday, May 26, 2025.

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Jeff Kent elected to baseball Hall of Fame, which again keeps doors shut for Bonds and Clemens

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Elected to baseball's Hall of Fame more than 17 years after his final game, Jeff Kent couldn't control his emotions.

"Absolutely unprepared. Emotionally unstable," he said after Sunday's vote announcement. "Thoughts are so far clouded."

Kent received 14 of 16 votes from the contemporary era committee, two more than the 12 ballots needed for the 75% minimum. Steroids-tainted stars Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were among seven players who fell short once again.

Kent will be inducted in Cooperstown, New York, on July 26 along with anyone chosen by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, whose balloting will be announced on Jan. 20.

"I hugged my wife after the the phone call had come in," Kent said, his voice cracking, "and I told her that a lot of the game had come rushing back to me at that moment. Similar to my retirement speech, my farewell speech that I did in LA, it reminds me of the 'no crying in baseball.' Well, I was bawling when I left the game because all that emotion just overcomes you."

A five-time All-Star second baseman, Kent hit .290 with 377 homers and 1,518 RBIs over 17 seasons with



Los Angeles Dodgers Jeff Kent hits a two-run home run against the San Francisco Giants in the fourth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Sept. 26, 2008.

Toronto (1992), the New York Mets (1992-96), Cleveland (1996), San Francisco (1997-2002), Houston (2003-04) and the Los Angeles Dodgers (2005-08). His 351 home runs as a second baseman are the most by a player at that position. Kent's most productive seasons were with the Giants, joined in the lineup by the record-setting Bonds.

"I think I've turned the double play better than anybody in the game during my era," Kent said.

Carlos Delgado received nine votes, followed by Don Mattingly and Dale Murphy with six each. Bonds, Clemens, Gary

Sheffield and Fernando Valenzuela each received fewer than five votes and can't appear on the ballot again until 2031.

Bonds and Clemens also fell short in 2022 in their 10th and final appearances on the BBWAA ballot. Bonds denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and Clemens maintains he never used PEDs.

"Barry was a good teammate of mine. He was a guy that I motivated and pushed," Kent said. "We knocked heads a little bit. He was a guy that motivated me at times, in frustration and love, at times both. ... If you're talking about moral code and all

that, I'm not a voter and I'm trying to stay away from all of that the best I can because I don't, I really don't have an opinion." Kent's relationship with the Giants became strained when he broke a bone in his left wrist during spring training in 2002. Kent told team athletic trainer Stan Conte he got hurt while washing his truck the previous day but Giants general manager Brian Sabean said three weeks later "there's mounting evidence from all sorts of eyewitnesses that says he fell off a motorcycle popping wheelies." Kent scuffled with Bonds in the dugout that June 25

during a game in San Diego.

Kent received 15.2% in his first BBWAA appearance in 2014 and a high of 46.5% in the last of his 10 times on the ballot in 2023.

"The moments seemed to pass by in not utter disappointment but just disappointment, frustration a little bit that I wasn't better recognized," Kent said.

Kent was drafted by Toronto and four months after his debut was traded to the Mets for David Cone, who helped the Blue Jays win the World Series.

"The rap for me probably started out in the wrong direction in New York," Kent said. "There was this perception when I left New York and came to the West Coast that 'he wasn't a good middle infielder,' and that was so false."

The Hall in 2022 restructured its veterans committees for the third time in 12 years, setting up panels to consider the contemporary era from 1980 on, as well as the classic era. The contemporary baseball era holds separate ballots for players and another for managers, executives and umpires.

Each committee meets every three years. Contemporary managers, executives and umpires will be considered in December 2026, classic era candidates in December 2027 and contemporary era players again in December 2028. □